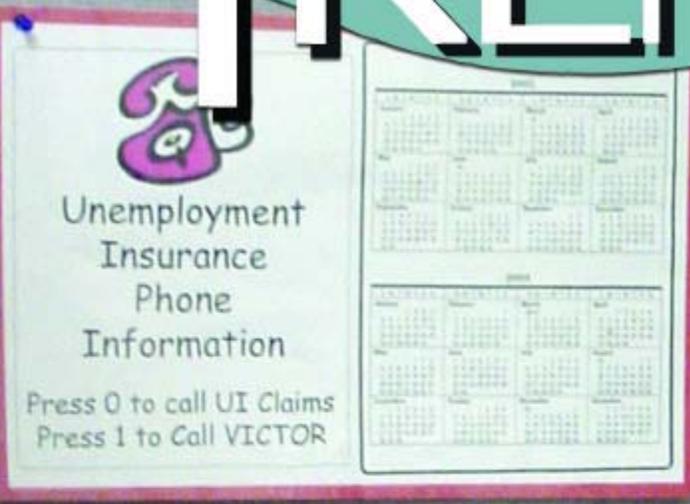


ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS

March 2003



Unemployment
Insurance
Phone
Information

The sign is mounted on a cubicle wall. It features a purple logo at the top left, a calendar grid in the middle, and text at the bottom. The calendar grid shows dates for several months. The text at the bottom reads: 'Press 0 to call UI Claims' and 'Press 1 to Call VICTOR'.

Press 0 to call UI Claims
Press 1 to Call VICTOR

Unemployment Insurance Claimants

Alaska Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor of Alaska

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

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Greg O'Claray, Commissioner of Labor
and Workforce Development**

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Exit SIC, Enter NAICS March <i>Trends</i> marks SIC's last appearance. NAICS is the new classification scheme.	

Unemployment Insurance Claimants

by
Sara Verrelli
Labor Economist

Their characteristics, and changes in the population from 1992 to 2001

At the low point of the Great Depression in 1935, the United States adopted a number of policies designed to alleviate economic distress in the country. Among them was Unemployment Insurance (UI), instituted to mitigate the hardships of temporary unemployment and to introduce a degree of economic stabilization for businesses. Under this program unemployed workers receive some continuing income, and this income is quickly introduced into the general economy, cushioning the effects of economic downturns on businesses.

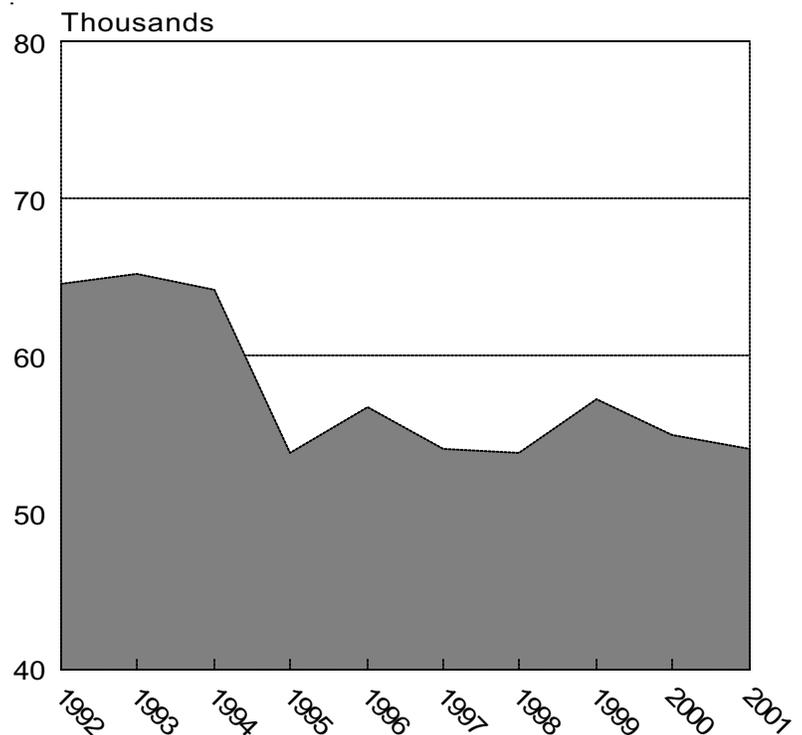
While the tax systems and benefit amounts vary from state to state, all states collect demographic information on unemployment claimants that allows them to describe the claimant population, and to trace how it changes over time. The Alaska Employment Security Act of 1937 requires a biennial actuarial study, which sheds light on who files for unemployment insurance benefits, their age, gender, location, industry, ethnicity, earnings, and number of dependents. (See Exhibit 2.) This article draws on that study to describe Alaska's UI claimant population and changes in it from 1992 to 2001.

UI payouts decline

In 2001, Alaska paid \$117,515,002 to 53,999 claimants from all regions and industries in the state. This was down considerably from the 64,482 claimants ten years earlier in 1992 and

the \$175,832,126 paid to them. (See Exhibit 1.) It was also below the ten year average of \$135,697,886 to 58,283 recipients. In 2001, 83 percent of claimants filed from within the state, and 17 percent filed from outside the state, based on work performed in Alaska. In 1992, 22.4 percent filed from out of state.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Total claimants 1992—2001



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

2 Unemployment Insurance Claimant Characteristics

2001

Characteristics	Number	Percent of Total	Characteristics	Number	Percent of Total
Total	53,999	100.0	Average Annual Earnings (\$):		
Gender:			1,000- 9,999	13,685	25.3
Male	33,503	62.0	10,000-19,999	16,059	29.7
Female	20,496	38.0	20,000-29,999	10,501	19.4
Age:			30,000-39,999	5,922	11.0
Less than 21	1,491	2.8	40,000-49,999	3,308	6.1
21-24	4,794	8.9	50,000-59,999	1,914	3.5
25-34	14,060	26.0	60,000-69,999	1,085	2.0
35-44	16,167	29.9	70,000-79,999	661	1.2
45-54	12,020	22.3	80,000-89,999	333	0.6
55-64	4,683	8.7	90,000+	531	1.0
65+	784	1.5	Geographic Location:		
Number of Dependents:			Aleutians East Borough	167	0.3
0	31,001	57.4	Aleutians West Census Area	346	0.6
1	9,153	17.0	Anchorage Borough	13,931	25.8
2	7,696	14.3	Bethel Census Area	1,317	2.4
3+	6,149	11.4	Bristol Bay Borough	110	0.2
Ethnic Background:			Denali Borough	229	0.4
Alaska Native/American Indian	11,411	21.1	Dillingham Census Area	338	0.6
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,921	7.3	Fairbanks North Star Borough	5,212	9.7
Black	1,809	3.4	Haines Borough	309	0.6
Hispanic	2,372	4.4	Juneau Borough	1,813	3.4
White	33,799	62.6	Kenai Peninsula Borough	4,443	8.2
Other	342	0.6	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	1,320	2.4
No Information	345	0.6	Kodiak Island Borough	1,662	3.1
Industry:			Lake & Peninsula Borough	136	0.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	438	0.8	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	4,873	9.0
Mining	1,853	3.4	Nome Census Area	576	1.1
Oil and Gas	1,465	2.7	North Slope Borough	678	1.3
Other Mining	388	0.7	Northwest Arctic Borough	485	0.9
Contract Construction	7,789	14.4	Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	823	1.5
Manufacturing	7,555	14.0	Sitka Borough	487	0.9
Food Products	5,850	10.8	Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	512	0.9
Lumber and Wood Products	1,056	2.0	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	593	1.1
Paper Products	3	0.0	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	960	1.8
Other Manufacturing	1,465	2.7	Wade Hampton Census Area	827	1.5
Transport/Communications/Util	4,665	8.6	Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	733	1.4
Trade	9,713	18.0	Yakutat Borough	89	0.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2,175	4.0	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	623	1.2
Services	13,713	25.4	Alaska Area Unknown	1,277	2.4
Public Administration	5,459	10.1	Total In-State	44,869	83.1
Unclassified	639	1.2	Out-of-State	9,130	16.9
Occupation:			Local Office:		
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	1,293	2.4	Anchorage	26,532	49.1
Benchwork	139	0.3	Central - Interstate Claims	9,130	16.9
Clerical and Sales	9,714	18.0	Central - Rural Mail Claims	9,057	16.8
Machine Trades	1,553	2.9	Fairbanks	5,324	9.9
Processing	5,565	10.3	Juneau / SE Urban	3,956	7.3
Professional, Technical, Managerial	7,875	14.6	Starting in 1996, the UI claims processing work at many offices was consolidated into regional centers in Anchorage and Juneau. All UI claims filing is now done by mail or telephone.		
Service	7,926	14.7	The Anchorage Center serves clients in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Eagle River, Glennallen, Homer, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Nome, Seward, Tok, and Valdez.		
Structural Work	13,737	25.4			
Miscellaneous and Unknown	6,197	11.5			

Notes: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Juneau / SE Urban serves Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

UI Claimants by Gender 1992 and 2001 3

Annual average UI covered employment in Alaska in 2001 was 283,000, up from 241,000 in 1992. The 2001 number represents 98.2 percent of all nonagricultural wage and salary workers. Not covered are full-commission salespersons, elected and appointed officials, fishers, unpaid family and domestic workers, and the self-employed.

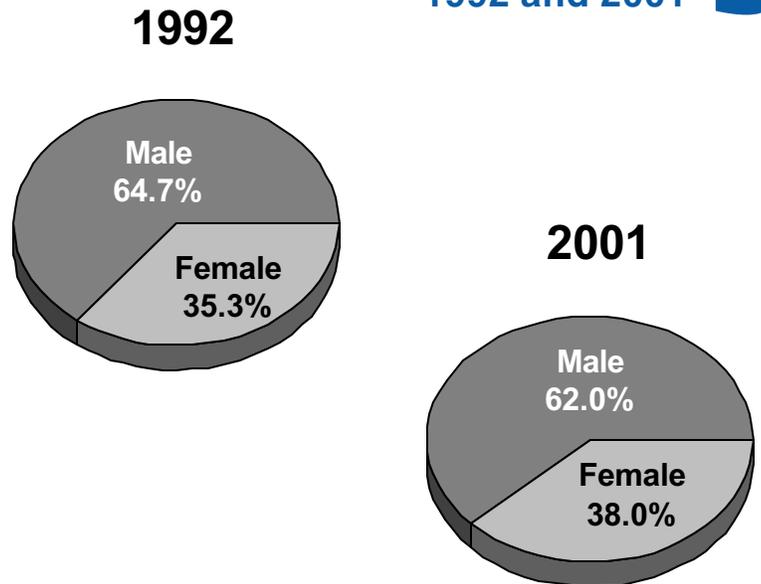
Distinctions by gender

Between 1992 and 2001, the overall gender composition of the unemployed population shifted. Men decreased their percentage of the unemployed from 64.7 percent to 62 percent, while women increased from 35.3 percent to 38 percent of the total. (See Exhibit 3). Among the sub-populations, more substantial changes were recorded. The large increase in Alaska Native women filing unemployment claims (30 percent increase from 1992-2001) was much greater than that for Alaska Native men (13 percent). The increase is linked to a greater number of Alaska Native women entering the workforce during this period. This conclusion is also supported by occupational data that show that jobs in the clerical, professional, and technical fields, (areas of high female employment), were the leading contributors to the increase among Native claimants.

Ethnic variations

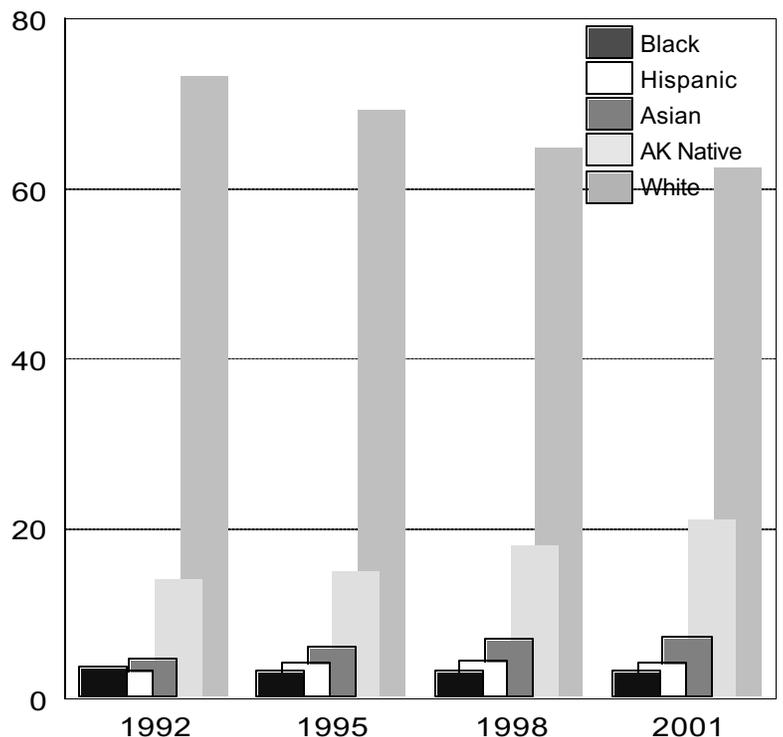
The majority of workers in the seafood processing industry are Asians and Hispanics. Asians have long had a strong presence in this industry, and the number of Hispanics has been growing in recent years. The downward trend in seafood processing employment during this decade has had a disproportionate impact on these two groups.

The majority of UI claimants identified themselves as Caucasian, but the proportion has decreased from 73 percent in 1992 to 62 percent in 2001. (See Exhibit 4.) Between 1992 and 2001, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Hispanics increased among UI claimants. The single largest increase is among



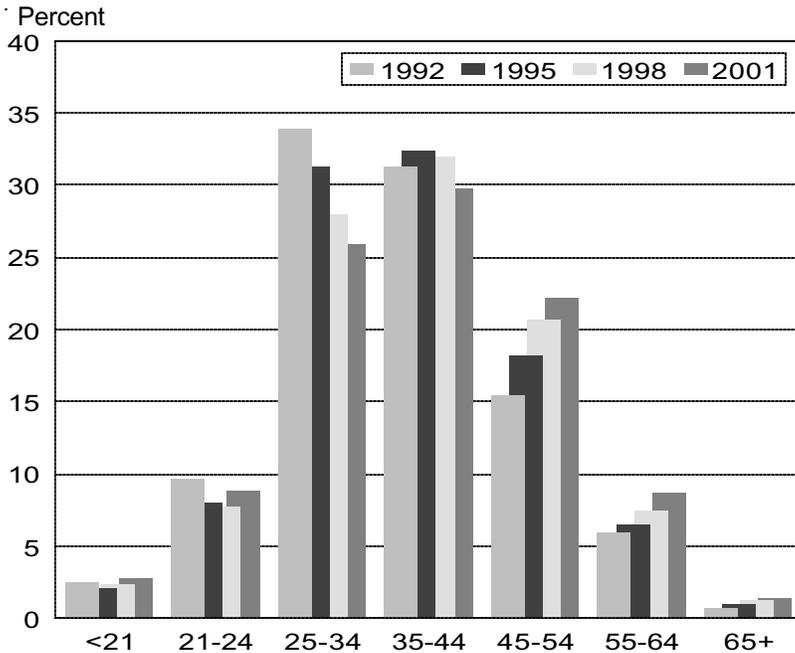
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Changes in Unemployed By race and ethnicity—percent 4



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

5 Unemployed by Age Group Percent 1992–2001



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

the Alaska Native population, which grew from 14.1 percent of the unemployed in 1992 to 21.2 percent in 2001. This increase is linked to the growing numbers of Alaska Natives (especially women) joining the workforce. Between 1992 and 2001 the proportion of African American claimants for UI declined slightly from 3.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

Age differences

For the last ten years unemployment has been rising among workers 45 and older, while declining for those in the 25-34 age bracket. (See Exhibit 5.) This pattern is reflected in the age distribution of Alaska's population. The workforce is growing older. An increasing number of the large baby boom generation is reaching age 45, and a declining number of the following generation is still younger than 35. This change could also contribute to the trend toward more claimants having no dependents. Alaska is one of 12 states that provide additional benefits to UI claimants with dependents; claimants can receive an additional \$24 a week per dependent with a maximum of \$72.

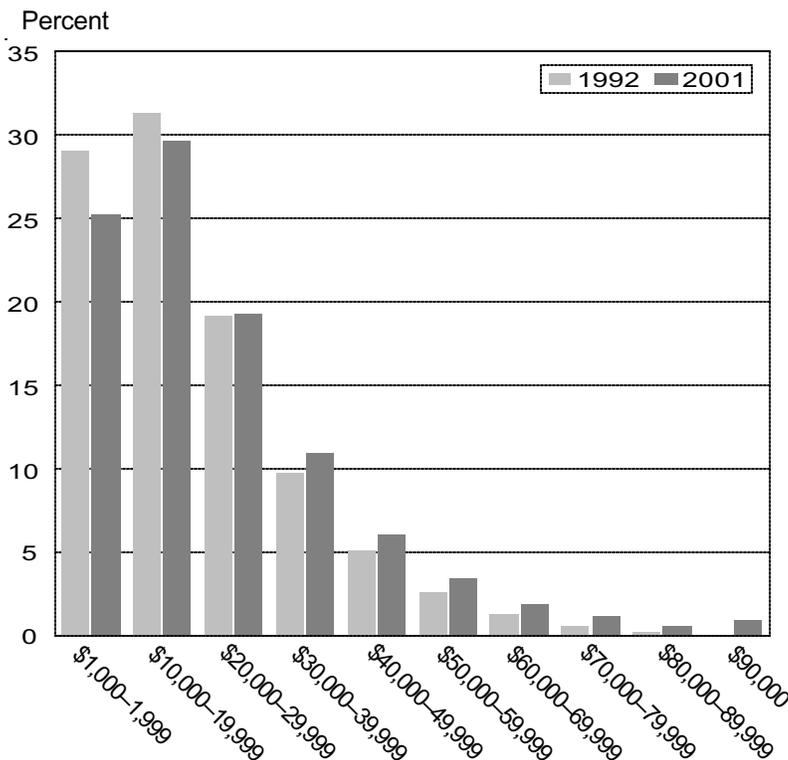
Geographic distribution and income

Though claimants continue to be widely disbursed around the state, the most populated urban areas account for the majority of claims activity. Anchorage has the largest number of claimants, followed by Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Kenai. Annual average earnings from work covered by unemployment insurance show that the lower income brackets continue to lead in UI claimant activity for 2001. Well over half of the claimants earned less than \$20,000 in 2001. (See Exhibit 6.)

Changes by occupation and industry

Most occupations showed little change over the study period in their share of unemployed claimants. In league with declines in the fishing industry throughout the 1990s, seafood processing occupations showed the most significant ten-year

6 Average Annual Earnings Of UI claimants—1992 and 2001



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

increase in percentage of UI claims, rising above a 10 percent share in 2001. Agricultural occupations, which include loggers, experienced a slight decrease, which may be partly attributed to unemployed workers' relocating out of state or seeking employment in other fields. (See Exhibit 7.)

As usual, construction occupations (carpenters, plumbers, electricians, roofers) accounted for the highest percentage of UI claims. Clerical and sales occupations in seasonal industries are another significant source of claims.

Manufacturing, mining, and transportation, communication, and utilities, all experienced decreases over the past ten years. The seasonal nature of Alaska's workforce is evident in the high percentage of claimants in the construction, services and trade industries. (See Exhibit 8.) Heightened tourism and construction related employment in the summer months is followed by increases in unemployment claims during the winter. Increased claims in seafood processing can be traced to declining year-to-year employment opportunities as the seafood processing industry contracted over the decade of the 1990s.

Summary

While the absolute number of UI claims filed has declined over the past decade, claimant activity has been basically steady in the highly seasonal industries characteristic of Alaska. Declining employment in the fishing and timber industries has led in turn to increasing unemployment claims by workers in these industries. Construction, and clerical occupations in seasonal industries continue to be the largest source of claims. The number of minorities filing unemployment claims rose over the decade, a reflection of the increased diversity of Alaska's workforce.

UI Claimants By occupational group 1992–2001

	1992	1995	1998	2001
	%	%	%	%
Agriculture and Forestry	3.3	3.3	2.8	2.4
Benchwork	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Clerical and Sales	19.9	17.7	18	18
Machine	4.7	3.9	3.3	2.9
Seafood Processing	6.3	8.4	10.1	10.3
Professional/Technical	15.7	15.5	14	14.6
Services	13.5	13.4	14.2	14.7
Construction	24.4	24.9	25.5	25.4

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

UI Claimants by Industry 1992–2001

	1992	1995	1998	2001
	%	%	%	%
Agriculture	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Mining	6.8	4.7	3.7	3.4
Construction	13.5	15.9	16.3	14.4
Finance/Insur/Real Estate	3.2	3.8	3.7	4
Manufacturing	14.8	16.1	16.2	14
Services	22.6	21.7	23.6	25.4
Trade	17.7	16.7	17.5	18
Trans/Communication/Utilities	8.8	9.2	8.1	8.6

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

One of many occupations described on the Workforce Info website

Career profiles can be found at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us> Select Career Center. A different occupation is featured each month.

Carpentry is a satisfying career where you use your skills to help build homes, libraries, hospitals, stores, and more. It offers the opportunity to work with your hands and with other skilled professionals in the building industry. Advancement to supervisory positions is possible without formal training, or you may start your own business as an independent contractor.

What do carpenters do?

Carpenters work in many different construction activities. They cut, fit, and assemble wood and other materials for small projects such as a shed or home, or they may help to build ships and industrial plants. Job duties vary by the employer's type of business. Job duties of a carpenter who works for a specialized contractor will be limited to the employer's specialty. A carpenter working for a general contractor will use a variety of skills to frame walls, put in doors and windows, build stairs, lay hardwood floors, and hang kitchen cabinets. Remodeling work requires a wide variety of skills. Individuals with good basic overall carpentry skills can find work in new construction or remodeling.

How do I become a carpenter?

There are three ways to train as a carpenter:

- Apprenticeship training programs
- Vocational schools
- On-the-job training

Formal training programs through apprenticeships or vocational training schools are recommended by employers. Apprenticeship openings are limited, so only a small proportion of carpenters learn their trade through these programs.

Apprenticeships in Alaska

Apprenticeships are four-year programs that lead to journey level carpenter. They combine on-the-job training with related instruction. In Alaska two programs are available, one union sponsored,

the other employer sponsored. Both programs place apprentices at a construction site to work under journey level carpenters. Apprentices learn elementary structural design and become familiar with common carpentry jobs, such as layout, form building, rough framing, and outside and inside finishing. They learn to use the tools, machines, equipment, and materials of the trade.

Union apprentices attend six to eight weeks of formal training at the union training centers in Anchorage or Fairbanks. The union bears the training and travel costs and provides a daily stipend. Non-union apprentices take correspondence courses throughout the four years while participating in on-the-job training. To complete the program, union apprentices must have 7,000 hours of on-the-job training and formal training combined and non-union apprentices need 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, plus 576 hours of related instruction.

Approximately 50 Alaskans are accepted annually into the union's apprenticeship program for carpenters. In 2002, 110 individuals were accepted into non-union trade apprenticeship programs, of which three were carpenter apprentices.

Apprenticeship entry requirements

Union

- At least 18 years old
- Physically able to perform the work
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- Alaska driver's license
- Alaska resident for at least 12 months
- Pass entrance exam

Non-Union

- At least 17 years old
- High school diploma, equivalency, or G.E.D.
- Physically capable of performing the essential functions of the trade
- One year of high school algebra or one

semester of college algebra with a grade of "C" or better OR successful completion (70% or better) of a supplemental math course within the first year of apprenticeship

- Interview score of 80%

For more information about apprenticeship programs contact the following:

Union

Southern Alaska Carpenters
Anchorage Carpenter Training Center
907-344-1541 or 1-888-825-1541 (in Alaska)
Address: 8751 King St., Anchorage AK 99515

Northern Alaska Carpenters
Fairbanks Alaska Carpenter Training Center
Phone: 907-452-4626
Address: P.O. Box 71087, Fairbanks AK 99707

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of
Apprenticeship Training and Labor Services
Phone: 907-271-5035
Address: 605 W. 4th Ave. Room G-30
Anchorage AK 99501

Non-Union

ABC of Alaska
Phone: 907-565-5601
3380 C St., Ste. 100, Anchorage AK 99503
Internet Link: <http://www.abcalaska.org/>

Vocational schools

Vocational schools offer training in a variety of classes. Unlike the union apprenticeship, the trainee must pay for the classes, living expenses, and travel while attending school. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development lists two schools with programs related to carpentry. For information about the schools or their programs contact them at:

Ilisagvik College
Phone: 907-852-1820
Address: P.O. Box 749, Barrow AK 99723
Internet <http://www.ilisagvik.cc/>

Alaska Vocational Technical Center
Phone: 907-224-1459
Address: P.O. Box 889, Seward AK 99664
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/AVTEC/home.htm>

On-the-job training

Since apprenticeship opportunities are limited, and vocational school entails costs, many take advantage of on-the-job training. Most start as a carpenter's helper assisting skilled carpenters.

As skills are learned they move to a full carpenter position. The time this takes depends upon the individual's ability to learn. An advantage of on-the-job training is that the trainee is paid while working. However, the training is dependent upon the type of work the employer is involved in and the skills of those providing the training.

Is there job advancement?

Carpenters may advance to carpentry supervisor or general construction supervisor positions. Carpenters usually have greater opportunities than most other construction workers to become general construction supervisors because they are exposed to the entire construction process. Some carpenters become independent contractors. To advance, these workers should be able to estimate the materials needed for a job, how long it will take to complete, and what it will cost.

Employment opportunities

In Alaska and nationally, employment opportunities are good for carpenters. Though the rate of growth is less than the average, turnover and openings created by those leaving the occupation create jobs. In Alaska in 2001, 17.4% of all carpenters working were non-residents. As more Alaskans train as carpenters, employers can hire more Alaska residents.

How much do carpenters earn?

Generally carpenters earn relatively high rates of pay. The average wage in Alaska for carpenters is \$22.54 per hour; the entry wage averages \$15.93, and wages for experienced carpenters average \$25.85 per hour. Carpenter helpers average \$14.66 per hour; the entry wage is \$10.70, and experienced helpers average \$16.63 per hour.

Wages on State of Alaska or federal government-funded construction projects are set by the Davis Bacon Act and range from \$15.85 to \$30.80 depending upon location and type of project.

Exit SIC, Enter NAICS

March *Trends* marks SIC's last appearance. NAICS is the new classification scheme.

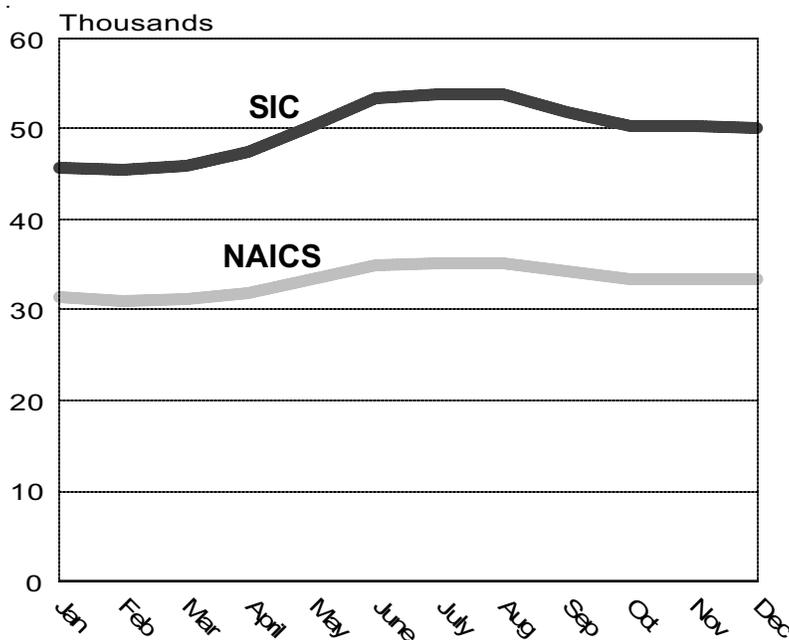
Alaska Employment Scene

by
Dan Robinson
Labor Economist

This month's issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* is the swan song for the Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC). The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) will make its debut in next month's *Trends*.

The introduction of NAICS marks a significant change, one that is likely to challenge users of these data. For a fuller treatment of the reasons behind the change from SIC to NAICS, see the *Industry Classification System Changes* article in the July 2002 issue of *Trends* (available on our website: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>).

1 Retail Trade Employment 2001



Examples of the differences

Exhibit 1 compares 2001 employment for Retail Trade in SIC and NAICS. Two obvious differences between them are the higher level of employment and the greater degree of seasonality under SIC. The primary reason for both of these differences is that under NAICS, Eating and Drinking Places (restaurants, bars, etc.) are taken out of Retail Trade and moved into a major new category called Leisure and Hospitality.

The Leisure and Hospitality category, which combines Eating and Drinking Places with Accommodation (hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, inns) and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (theatres, museums, golf courses, amusement parks) is especially useful for states like Alaska where the visitor industry has a major impact on the economy. (See Exhibit 2.) Under SIC, these industries were under Retail Trade and a large, catch-all category called Services.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Leisure & Hospitality Employment 2001 **2**

Exhibit 3 illustrates another difference between the two classification systems, this time for Manufacturing. The two lines follow a roughly similar trend, but under NAICS the total number of manufacturing jobs has shrunk by about 1,500 jobs. The reason for the difference is that under SIC, newspaper and book publishing was counted as a manufacturing industry; under NAICS publishing industries are placed under a new major category called Information. This category also includes the telecommunication industry, which employed more than 4,000 people in 2001.

Categories change, comparisons get sticky

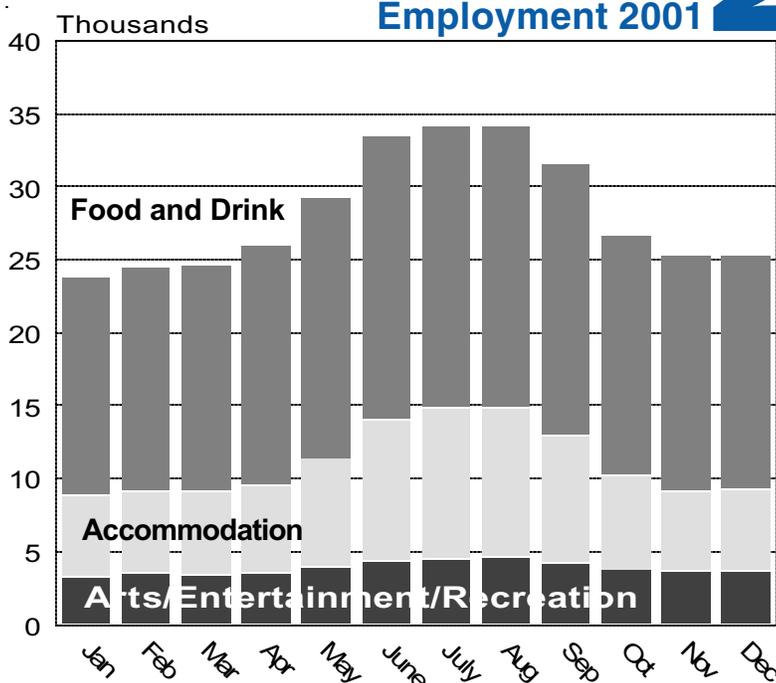
Some categories remain relatively unchanged in the transition from SIC to NAICS (construction, for example). The majority, however, are either new or include a different mix of industries. For that reason, employment numbers are generally not comparable from SIC to NAICS. The changes in Retail Trade and Manufacturing discussed above illustrate the problem. Comparing 2000 employment numbers under SIC to 2001 numbers under NAICS would suggest large drops in both Retail Trade and Manufacturing that would be artificial.

Trends to publish retroactive NAICS numbers

To facilitate analysis that covers the time periods before and after the shift from SIC to NAICS, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development will publish employment numbers in the NAICS categories back to 1990 in a future issue of *Trends* and on its website.

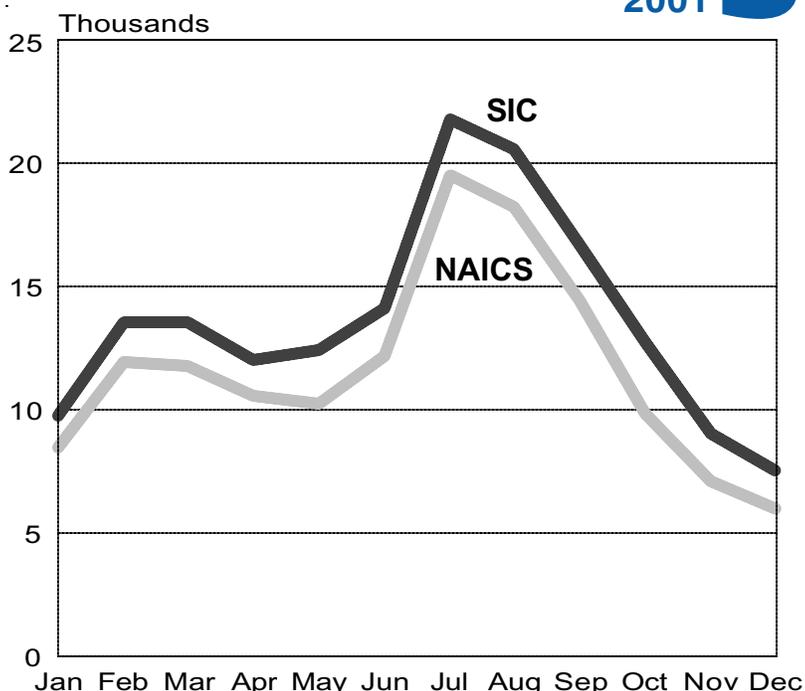
Employment up over the year

According to December employment estimates, Alaska has added 4,100 jobs since December 2001, an increase of 1.5 percent. (See Exhibit 4.) The bulk of the growth has been in the Services



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Manufacturing Employment 2001 **3**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

(continued on page 14)

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Alaska	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	12/02	11/02	12/01	11/02	12/01
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	283,900	287,200	279,800	-3,300	4,100
Goods-producing	30,300	33,600	30,600	-3,300	-300
Service-producing	253,600	253,600	249,200	0	4,400
Mining	9,500	9,700	10,100	-200	-600
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,100	8,300	8,700	-200	-600
Construction	13,400	14,600	12,900	-1,200	500
Manufacturing	7,400	9,300	7,600	-1,900	-200
Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	2,000	-100	0
Lumber & Wood Products	700	800	800	-100	-100
Nondurable Goods	5,400	7,200	5,600	-1,800	-200
Seafood Processing	2,500	4,300	2,700	-1,800	-200
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	26,000	26,400	26,400	-400	-400
Trucking & Warehousing	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	-100
Water Transportation	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Air Transportation	9,300	9,300	9,400	0	-100
Communications	5,400	5,400	5,500	0	-100
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Trade	58,500	58,500	58,300	0	200
Wholesale Trade	8,100	8,100	8,100	0	0
Retail Trade	50,400	50,400	50,200	0	200
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	10,600	10,700	10,900	-100	-300
Food Stores	6,200	6,200	6,400	0	-200
Eating & Drinking Places	17,500	17,500	17,000	0	500
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,700	12,700	12,800	0	-100
Services & Misc.	74,100	73,700	71,300	400	2,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,200	6,100	6,000	100	200
Business Services	9,100	8,900	8,900	200	200
Health Services	19,500	19,400	18,300	100	1,200
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Social Services	9,500	9,400	8,800	100	700
Engineering/Account'g/Research	8,000	8,100	8,000	-100	0
Government	82,300	82,300	80,400	0	1,900
Federal	16,800	16,900	16,600	-100	200
State	24,400	24,500	23,500	-100	900
Local	41,100	40,900	40,300	200	800
Tribal	3,300	3,300	3,000	0	300

Municipality of Anchorage	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	12/02	11/02	12/01	11/02	12/01
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	140,000	139,900	137,700	100	2,300
Goods-producing	11,600	12,000	11,500	-400	100
Service-producing	128,400	127,900	126,200	500	2,200
Mining	2,400	2,500	2,700	-100	-300
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,400	2,400	2,600	0	-200
Construction	7,000	7,300	6,500	-300	500
Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	14,800	14,800	14,900	0	-100
Air Transportation	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	-100
Communications	3,500	3,500	3,700	0	-200
Trade	33,300	33,200	33,200	100	100
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,100	6,200	0	-100
Retail Trade	27,200	27,100	27,000	100	200
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	5,500	5,500	5,800	0	-300
Food Stores	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	10,400	10,300	9,900	100	500
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,600	7,600	7,700	0	-100
Services & Misc.	42,200	41,900	40,700	300	1,500
Hotels & Lodging Places	3,000	2,900	2,900	100	100
Business Services	6,400	6,400	6,500	0	-100
Health Services	10,900	10,800	10,100	100	800
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	4,400	4,400	4,200	0	200
Engineering/Account'g/Research	6,100	6,200	5,800	-100	300
Government	30,500	30,400	29,700	100	800
Federal	9,600	9,600	9,700	0	-100
State	10,000	10,000	9,500	0	500
Local	10,900	10,800	10,500	100	400
Tribal	200	200	200	0	0

Notes to Exhibits 4, 5, and 6—Nonagricultural excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers. Government category includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Exhibits 4 & 5—Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Exhibit 6—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

5 Hours and Earnings

For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 12/02	revised 11/02	revised 12/01	preliminary 12/02	revised 11/02	revised 12/01	preliminary 12/02	revised 11/02	revised 12/01
Mining	\$1,192.55	\$1,240.89	\$1,316.47	39.1	39.9	45.1	\$30.50	\$31.10	\$29.19
Construction	1118.40	1103.72	1063.90	41.3	41.0	40.7	27.08	26.92	26.14
Manufacturing	714.62	579.94	660.93	35.5	31.9	35.1	20.13	18.18	18.83
Seafood Processing	349.07	306.20	318.30	25.8	23.7	22.4	13.53	12.92	14.21
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	766.23	766.39	749.92	35.1	34.6	34.4	21.83	22.15	21.80
Trade	511.53	514.85	507.40	34.4	35.0	34.4	14.87	14.71	14.75
Wholesale Trade	693.45	714.56	731.91	41.4	41.4	38.2	16.75	17.26	19.16
Retail Trade	485.30	484.84	472.19	33.4	34.0	33.8	14.53	14.26	13.97
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	668.28	653.56	652.26	36.3	35.5	36.5	18.41	18.41	17.87

Average hours and earnings estimates are based on data for full-time and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Benchmark: March 2001

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

6 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

	preliminary		12/01	Changes from:	
	12/02	11/02		11/02	12/01
Fairbanks					
North Star Borough					
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,950	35,400	34,300	-450	650
Goods-producing	3,100	3,350	2,950	-250	150
Service-producing	31,850	32,050	31,350	-200	500
Mining	750	800	750	-50	0
Construction	1,750	1,950	1,650	-200	100
Manufacturing	600	600	550	0	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,800	2,800	3,050	0	-250
Trucking & Warehousing	600	600	600	0	0
Air Transportation	950	950	1,000	0	-50
Communications	400	350	350	50	50
Trade	7,150	7,050	7,050	100	100
Wholesale Trade	700	700	650	0	50
Retail Trade	6,450	6,350	6,400	100	50
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,250	1,200	1,350	50	-100
Food Stores	600	600	650	0	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	2,450	2,400	2,400	50	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Services & Misc.	8,800	9,050	8,450	-250	350
Hotels & Lodging Places	750	850	750	-100	0
Health Services	2,200	2,350	2,100	-150	100
Government	11,900	11,950	11,600	-50	300
Federal	3,400	3,400	3,350	0	50
State	5,250	5,250	5,000	0	250
Local	3,250	3,300	3,250	-50	0
Tribal (no data)	0	0	0	0	0

Southeast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,650	34,950	34,250	-300	400
Goods-producing	3,600	4,050	3,450	-450	150
Service-producing	31,050	30,900	30,800	150	250
Mining	300	300	300	0	0
Construction	1,650	1,750	1,450	-100	200
Manufacturing	1,650	2,000	1,700	-350	-50
Durable Goods	700	750	750	-50	-50
Lumber & Wood Products	450	500	500	-50	-50
Nondurable Goods	950	1,250	950	-300	0
Seafood Processing	650	950	650	-300	0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,500	2,550	2,450	-50	50
Trade	5,950	6,000	6,050	-50	-100
Wholesale Trade	600	600	550	0	50
Retail Trade	5,350	5,400	5,500	-50	-150
Food Stores	1,200	1,200	1,250	0	-50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,350	1,300	1,350	50	0
Services & Misc.	7,450	7,400	7,450	50	0
Health Services	1,800	1,750	1,750	50	50
Government	13,800	13,650	13,500	150	300
Federal	1,900	1,900	1,700	0	200
State	5,550	5,500	5,500	50	50
Local	6,350	6,250	6,300	100	50
Tribal	550	550	550	0	0

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,400	15,350	16,050	50	-650
Goods-producing	5,050	5,050	5,600	0	-550
Service-producing	10,350	10,300	10,450	50	-100
Mining	4,700	4,700	5,000	0	-300
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,250	4,300	4,550	-50	-300
Government	5,000	4,900	4,950	100	50
Federal	150	150	150	0	0
State	350	350	300	0	50
Local	4,500	4,400	4,500	100	0
Tribal	400	400	400	0	0

	preliminary		12/01	Changes from:	
	12/02	11/02		11/02	12/01
Interior Region					
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	39,750	40,450	39,100	-700	650
Goods-producing	3,300	3,650	3,250	-350	50
Service-producing	36,450	36,800	35,850	-350	600
Mining	850	900	900	-50	-50
Construction	1,850	2,100	1,750	-250	100
Manufacturing	600	650	600	-50	0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,400	3,400	3,600	0	-200
Trade	7,850	7,800	7,700	50	150
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,250	1,250	1,250	0	0
Services & Misc.	9,300	9,650	9,000	-350	300
Hotels & Lodging Places	850	950	850	-100	0
Government	14,650	14,700	14,300	-50	350
Federal	3,900	3,950	3,800	-50	100
State	5,450	5,450	5,250	0	200
Local	5,300	5,300	5,250	0	50
Tribal	300	300	300	0	0

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	154,350	154,300	151,000	50	3,350
Goods-producing	13,100	13,550	12,850	-450	250
Service-producing	141,250	140,750	138,150	500	3,100
Mining	2,450	2,500	2,750	-50	-300
Construction	8,300	8,700	7,650	-400	650
Manufacturing	2,350	2,350	2,450	0	-100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	15,850	15,850	15,900	0	-50
Trade	37,150	37,000	36,800	150	350
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	8,150	8,150	8,150	0	0
Services & Misc.	45,950	45,650	44,100	300	1,850
Government	34,150	34,100	33,200	50	950
Federal	9,800	9,750	9,850	50	-50
State	10,900	10,950	10,400	-50	500
Local	13,450	13,400	12,950	50	500
Tribal	250	250	250	0	0

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,850	14,650	15,750	1,200	100
Goods-producing	2,950	1,300	3,250	1,650	-300
Service-producing	12,900	13,350	12,500	-450	400
Seafood Processing	2,800	1,150	3,100	1,650	-300
Government	6,850	7,150	6,750	-300	100
Federal	300	350	300	-50	0
State	450	400	500	50	-50
Local	6,100	6,400	5,950	-300	150
Tribal	1,300	1,300	1,100	0	200

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	25,200	26,500	24,800	-1,300	400
Goods-producing	4,050	5,050	4,000	-1,000	50
Service-producing	21,150	21,450	20,800	-300	350
Mining	1,150	1,200	1,150	-50	0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0
Construction	1,100	1,350	1,250	-250	-150
Manufacturing	1,800	2,500	1,600	-700	200
Seafood Processing	900	1,600	750	-700	150
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,150	2,200	2,300	-50	-150
Trade	5,100	5,150	5,000	-50	100
Wholesale Trade	350	350	350	0	0
Retail Trade	4,750	4,800	4,650	-50	100
Eating & Drinking Places	1,500	1,500	1,450	0	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	700	700	700	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,800	5,850	5,600	-50	200
Health Services	1,300	1,300	1,250	0	50
Government	7,400	7,550	7,200	-150	200
Federal	700	750	700	-50	0
State	1,650	1,700	1,600	-50	50
Local	5,050	5,100	4,900	-50	150
Tribal	250	250	250	0	0

7 Unemployment Rates

By region and census area

(continued from page 11)

Not Seasonally Adjusted	preliminary 12/02	revised 11/02	12/01
United States	5.7	5.7	5.4
Alaska Statewide	7.6	6.7	6.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.9	5.3	4.6
Municipality of Anchorage	5.1	4.7	4.0
Mat-Su Borough	9.0	7.9	7.4
Gulf Coast Region	13.1	10.5	11.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	13.1	11.2	10.6
Kodiak Island Borough	12.8	7.8	13.7
Valdez-Cordova	13.4	11.6	10.3
Interior Region	7.6	6.8	6.2
Denali Borough	13.8	14.8	9.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.6	5.9	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks	14.1	11.3	11.4
Yukon-Koyukuk	16.7	15.1	13.2
Northern Region	12.5	12.1	8.7
Nome	12.3	10.9	9.0
North Slope Borough	9.6	10.8	6.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	17.1	15.9	11.9
Southeast Region	7.8	6.7	7.8
Haines Borough	13.9	12.3	13.1
Juneau Borough	5.4	4.9	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8.5	8.1	8.6
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	10.9	8.4	13.1
Sitka Borough	7.0	5.6	6.1
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	11.3	11.5	12.9
Wrangell-Petersburg	11.4	6.8	10.9
Yakutat Borough	13.4	11.0	13.9
Southwest Region	13.6	11.7	10.1
Aleutians East Borough	6.7	6.0	4.1
Aleutians West	14.2	13.0	10.5
Bethel	12.8	11.1	8.9
Bristol Bay Borough	11.8	9.8	15.4
Dillingham	13.2	11.2	9.6
Lake & Peninsula Borough	13.5	10.4	12.3
Wade Hampton	20.6	17.5	15.5
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	6.0	6.0	5.8
Alaska Statewide	7.4	6.8	6.0

2001 Benchmark

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active jobsearch. They are considered not in the labor force.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

category. Of the approximately 2,800 new jobs in Services, 1,200 are in health services industries and another 700 are in social services.

Government jobs in December 2002 were up approximately 1,900 over December 2001, an increase of 2.4 percent. Federal employment was up 200. State and local government were up 900 and 800 respectively.

Regional growth

The Anchorage/Mat-Su region led the way in employment growth, adding about 3,350 jobs over the year, or more than 80 percent of the statewide total. (See Exhibit 6.) Employment in Fairbanks also grew, up by 650 over the twelve-month period.

The Gulf Coast and Southeast regions both increased their employment levels by a modest amount. The Southwest region managed to maintain the same number of jobs it had a year ago, while the Northern region suffered a net job loss of around 650 in a down year for employment in the oil industry.

Unemployment rate climbs

December's unemployment rate rose nine-tenths of a percentage point to 7.6 percent and is now 1.4 percentage points higher than in December 2001. Newly released population estimates suggest that the unusual combination of job growth and higher unemployment rates may be related to a decrease in migration out of Alaska.

For the first time in several years a higher number of people are moving into Alaska than moving out. The likely cause is an economy in the lower 48 that offers a less attractive alternative now than it did during the strong growth years of the late 1990s.

Employer Resources

Are you interested in Alaska's economic, occupation and population information? The Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Section has current wage, industry and occupational information, reports, publications and more. Go to www.jobs.state.ak.us and click on Labor Market Information.

The screenshot shows the Alaska Job Center Network homepage. The main menu includes links for Home, Business Connection, Job Seeker Resources, Job Training, Unemployment Insurance, Vocational Rehabilitation, Public Assistance, Labor Market Information, and Alaska Job Centers. A map of Alaska is displayed with various regions labeled. A black arrow points from the 'Labor Market Information' link in the main menu to the 'Job Market Information' section of the website.

The screenshot shows the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development website. The main heading is 'Workforce Info Home'. A section titled 'Monthly Unemployment Rate' displays a bar chart for December 2002 for selected areas:

Area	Rate
U.S.	5.7%
Alaska	7.6%
Anchorage	5.1%
Fairbanks	5.2%
Juneau	5.1%
Kodiak	12.8%
Nome	12.3%
Wade Hampton	28.8%

Below the chart, a text box states: 'Unemployment Climbs in December: Alaska's unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent in December, up nine-tenths of a percentage point from November's rate of 6.7 percent. The comparable national rate was unchanged from November to December at 5.7 percent. The average November-to-December increase over the last decade is two to three-tenths of a percentage point, so the magnitude of this year's increase is noteworthy. At 7.6 percent, the rate is now significantly higher than December 2001's rate of 6.2 percent. Dan Robinson 1/16/2003 read more...

Other sections include 'Alaska Quick Facts' (Minimum wage in Alaska is \$7.15) and 'Alaska Economic Trends' (Sitka Rich in history).